Reduction in grants to Universities

*175. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether Government have been continuously reducing the grants made available to the Indian universities resulting in an adverse impact on their growth;

whether the permission has been granted to the foreign universities to set up their base in the country making the situation difficult for the Indian universities;

if so, the steps proposed to encourage the Indian universities to enable them to compete with the foreign universities;

if so, the details thereof; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) Budgetary allocation by the Central Government to the Universities Grants Commission for providing development grants to eligible universities & colleges has been increasing over the years. Against an allocation of Rs.516.75 crores by way of development grants in 2003-2004, the allocation for the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 have been Rs.719.75 crores and Rs.785.40 crores respectively. While the Central Government has not taken a final view in regard to the entry of Foreign Education Providers, the Government intends to put a regulatory framework for such providers at the earliest. A major thrust is being given to improve the quality of education and research in universities.

Productivity of Education System

*176. SHRI SAN JAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Head of National Knowledge Commission that only 6 per cent students garner gains from the current education system and around 80 per cent higher education curriculum went on unproductive for students;

if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government